

Filed for intro on 01/10/2001

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 9

By Atchley

A RESOLUTION to recognize Ms. Sammie Lynn Scandlyn Puett  
on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sammie Lynn Puett is one such estimable person who has enjoyed a distinguished career in business, higher education and state government for over 40 years, having served with probity with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service for 9 years, the University of Tennessee for a tenure of over 25 years, which was interrupted by state government service, and then the last several months as Chancellor of the New College in the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Puett earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business from the University of Tennessee in 1958, and a Master of Science Degree in Educational Psychology and Counseling from U.T. in 1966; during this period she was a sales correspondent for Plasti-Line, Inc. of Knoxville and then a Public Relations Consultant with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service and Editor of Tennessee *Town & City* Magazine; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Puett's service with MTAS as a public relations consultant resulted in statewide and national recognition of the importance of public relations in city government and the establishment of full-time public relations positions in many cities; under her leadership, Tennessee local governments were able to broaden their tax base by the adoption of local option sales taxes and in less than three years she planned and directed more than fifty successful referenda; and

WHEREAS, Sammie Lynn Puett served expertly as Assistant Professor in the U.T. School of Journalism and as Assistant to the Dean of the U.T. College of Communications from September 1968 to September 1973; in 1973, still holding her academic duties and title, she became Executive Assistant to the Chancellor of the U.T. Knoxville campus, serving until January 1979; and

WHEREAS, in January 1979, Governor Lamar Alexander appointed Ms. Puett Commissioner of the Department of General Services; her meritorious service in that post led the Governor to appoint her as Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources in January 1980; she served in this position until May, 1985 and transformed a disorganized department into a national model of management, efficiency, outstanding client service and responsible financial management; and

WHEREAS, In June 1985, Sammie Lynn Puett returned to the University of Tennessee as Assistant Vice President for University Relations, serving in that role until January 1989, when she became Vice President for Public Service, Continuing Education and University Relations; she served the University with distinction in that role until August of 2000, when she was named Chancellor of the New College in the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Puett has been extensively involved in professional activities and organizations, including positions as a Fellow of the Public Relations Society of America since 1992, holding the Southeast District Vice-Chair in 1975-76 and the Chair in 1977-78; 1975 Chairperson of the National Educational Advisory Council; Director of the National Case Study Competition and Member of the National Education Committee from 1973-76; Member of the

Academy of the Foundation for Public Relations Education and Research from 1975-76; Member of Sigma Delta Chi Society of Professional Journalists; Member of the National Campus Affairs Committee for two years; Director of the East Tennessee Professional Chapter for one year, a Member of the Executive Women's Association since 1985; and a Member of Women Executives in State Government from 1984-90; and

WHEREAS, Sammie Lynn Puett served as Chairperson of the National Welfare Simplification and Coordination Advisory Committee from 1992-93, a panelist on the National Academy of Science for the Study of the Quality Control Systems of Food Stamps, AFDC, and Medicaid, from 1986-87; and the 1984 Region IV Representative to the National Council of State Welfare Commissioners, and is a frequent speaker and lecturer on government matters and public relations; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Puett has served the University of Tennessee adroitly in numerous capacities over the years, including as chair or member of a number of academic and administrative committees, as a faculty advisor to student professional societies and as a lecturer for various professional honor societies; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Puett is an active and important part of her community, and her outstanding organizational and administrative skills, ability to effectively communicate, and enormous talent in public relations have placed her in great demand for roles in numerous civic organizations. She has served or serves on the Board of Directors of several financial institutions in Knoxville, has held several important posts on the Executive Committee of the Greater Knoxville Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Directors for United Way, has served in various positions on a number of Arts-related organizations, has served in a number of important lay posts for the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church, and is a member of other national, state and local organizations too numerous to mention; and

WHEREAS, Sammie Lynn Puett was the author of the Public Relations section of the *International City Managers Association Supervisors Manual* in 1978, the author of *101 Winning Ways to Better Municipal Public Relations* in 1967, a columnist in *Nation's Cities* from 1965-73

and from 1960-73, a contributor of numerous features to *Nation's Cities* and *Tennessee Town & City* from 1960-73, and author of a book review in the *Public Relations Review* in 1977 entitled "Public Relations in Higher Education"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Puett is justly the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including being named a semi-finalist in the 1965 White House Fellows Program; the Silver Anvil, (Community Relations Category) from the Public Relations Society of America in 1975; the Chancellor's Citation for Extraordinary Services to the University in 1979; the Women of Achievement Award from the University of Tennessee Commission on Women in 1980 and 1983; the Tribute to Women Award -Education Category, from the YWCA in 1987; the Sigma Delta Chi Annual Front Page Follies Honoree in 1989; the Lifetime Achievement Award from PRSA Volunteer Chapter in 1993; the Fountain City Woman of the Year in 1993; an Appreciation Award from the American Public Welfare Association in 1993; and Fundraising Volunteer of the Year Award for the Knoxville Opera Company, from the National Society of Fundraising Executives; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Puett exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community, and the dedication to professional excellence that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her remarkable career, Sammie Lynn Puett has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues, peers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we extend to Sammie Lynn Scandlyn Puett our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we offer our profound gratitude for the years of outstanding and unselfish service rendered by Ms. Puett to state and local government and to higher education in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.